



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: July 28, 2006

REPORT NO. 06-109

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of August 2, 2006

SUBJECT: City of San Diego Semi-Annual Crime Briefing
January – June 2006 Index Crimes

REFERENCE: N/A

SUMMARY

This is an information item only. No action is required on the part of the Committee.

BACKGROUND

The San Diego Police Department presents reports to the Committee on index crimes and other crimes on a quarterly year-to-date basis.

This report summarizes January through June 2006 index crimes, as well as domestic violence, gang violence, hate crimes, juvenile crimes, and traffic incidents. Index crimes include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. The Department of Justice Uniform Crime Reporting program collects information on these crime types from law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and uses the data to measure crime nationwide.

DISCUSSION

	Jan - Jun 2005	Jan - Jun 2006	% Change	(Rates per 1,000)		Clearances	
				2005	2006	2005	2006
Murder	23	36	56.5%	0.04	0.05	60.9%	61.1%
Rape	185	159	-14.1%	0.28	0.24	48.6%	40.3%
Robbery	909	987	8.6%	1.39	1.51	34.8%	31.8%
Agg. Assault	2,102	1,958	-6.9%	3.22	2.99	61.1%	51.9%
Violent Crimes	3,219	3,140	-2.5%	4.93	4.79	53.0%	45.1%
Burglary	3,692	3,564	-3.5%	5.66	5.44	13.9%	13.4%
Theft	12,635	12,296	-2.7%	19.35	18.76	13.3%	13.2%
Veh. Theft	6,844	6,619	-3.3%	10.48	10.10	1.4%	0.9%
Property Crimes	23,171	22,479	-3.0%	35.49	34.29	9.8%	9.6%
TOTAL INDEX	26,390	25,619	-2.9%	40.42	39.08	15.1%	14.0%

Data supplied by Crime Analysis 07/20/2006

The total number of index crimes in San Diego decreased 2.9% in the first six months of 2006. There were 25,619 reported index crimes in January to June 2006, compared to 26,390 in the first half of 2005.

The total index crime rate per one thousand residents for the first half of 2006 was 39.08, compared to 40.42 for the same period in 2005. The annual index crime rates in previous years were 40.35 in 2004, 42.15 in 2003, 39.92 in 2002, 40.33 in 2001, and 36.30 in 2000, which was the lowest rate since 1966. As the following chart shows, overall crime rates decreased throughout the 1990's, and have shown a modest increase this decade.

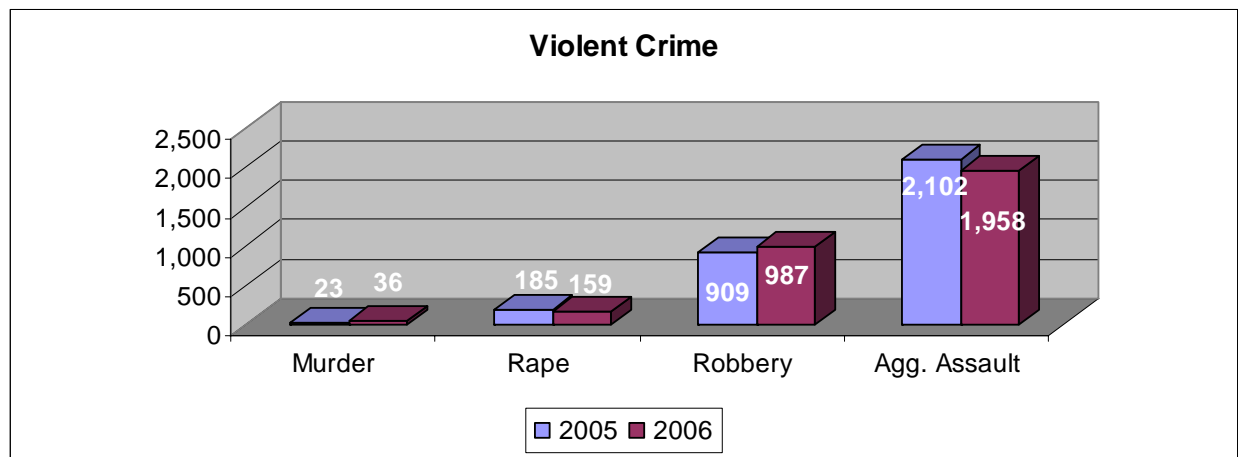
San Diego Crime Rates per 1,000 Population 1996 to 2006			
Year	Violent Crime Rate	Property Crime Rate	Total Index Crime Rate
1996	8.58	43.47	52.05
1997	8.22	41.31	49.53
1998	7.20	37.63	44.83
1999	5.95	33.86	39.81
2000	5.61	30.69	36.30
2001	5.92	34.41	40.33
2002	5.73	34.19	39.92
2003	5.78	36.38	42.15
2004	5.23	35.12	40.35
2005	5.06	35.39	40.45
2006*	4.79	34.29	39.08

*First six months annualized

Violent Crimes

Violent crimes – murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault – decreased 2.5% in January to June 2006. There were 3,140 violent crimes in the first half of 2006 compared to 3,219 for the same period in 2005. The rate of violent crimes per one thousand residents was 4.79, compared to 4.93 in 2005.

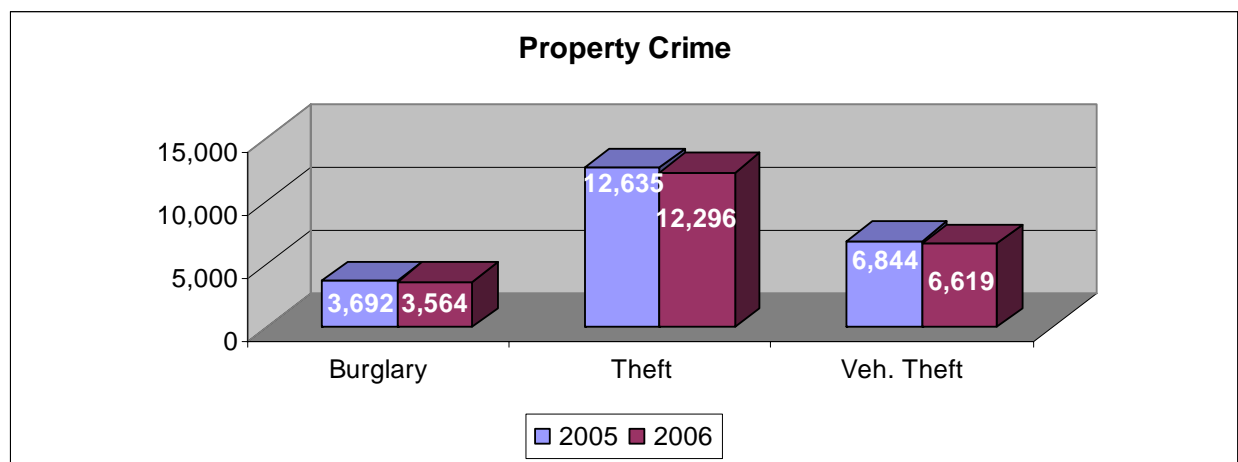
Of violent crimes, homicides showed the most significant increase. Homicides increased 56.5% in the first six months of 2006 with 36, compared to 23 in the same period of 2005. Rapes decreased 14.1% in the first half of 2006, with 159 compared to 185 in 2005. Robberies increased 8.6% in the first half of 2006, with 987 compared to 909 in 2005. Aggravated assaults decreased 6.9% in the first six months of 2006, with 1,958 compared to 2,102 in 2005.



Property Crimes

Property crimes -- burglary, larceny and auto theft -- decreased 3.0% in January to June 2006. There were 22,479 property crimes in the first six months of 2006 compared to 23,171 in 2005. The rate of property crimes per one thousand residents was 34.29 in the first half of 2006, compared to 35.49 in the same period of 2005.

Burglary decreased 3.5% in the first six months of 2006 with 3,564 compared to 3,692 in the first six months of 2005. Vehicle thefts decreased 3.3% in January to June 2006, with 6,619 compared to 6,844 in 2005. Larceny, or theft, cases decreased 2.7%, with 12,296 in 2006 compared to 12,635 in the first half of 2005.



Clearances

The percentage of index crimes cleared during January to June 2006 was 14.0% compared to 15.1% in 2005. An offense is "cleared," or solved, by arrest or by exception. Clearance by arrest occurs when a suspect is arrested, charged, and turned over to the courts for prosecution. Clearance by exception occurs when the suspect is deceased, is already in custody, or is serving a sentence.

Police cleared or solved 45.1% of violent crimes during the first half of 2006, compared to 53.0% in the same period for 2005. The national average for violent crime clearances was 46.3% in 2004 (more recent data not yet available). Police cleared or solved 9.6% of property crimes in January to June, compared to 9.8% in the first half of 2005. The national average for property crime clearances was 16.5% in 2004.¹

¹ Source: Department of Justice: http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_04/offenses_cleared/index.html

Domestic Violence

The total number of domestic violence cases decreased 9.4% in January to June 2006, with 4,298 compared to 4,746 in 2005. Criminal cases decreased 8.8%, while the number of domestic violence calls that did not develop into crimes decreased 11.7%. Domestic violence cases involving firearms decreased by 25.0% from the first half of 2005 to the same period in 2006. Cases involving knives or cutting instruments increased 5.6%.

San Diego Domestic Violence January to June			
	2005	2006	05 to 06 % Change
Criminal Cases:			
Firearms	32	24	-25.0%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	126	133	5.6%
Other Dangerous Weapon	692	622	-10.1%
Personal Weapon (hands, etc.)	2,887	2,628	-9.0%
Total Criminal Cases	3,737	3,407	-8.8%
Non-Criminal Calls:	1,009	891	-11.7%
Total Cases	4,746	4,298	-9.4%
Data supplied by Crime Analysis 07/20/2006			

Gang Crimes

Crimes attributed to gang members decreased 9.9% in January to June 2006, with 354 cases compared to 393 in the same period of 2005. Nine of the 36 homicides in San Diego were attributed to gang members, a 12.5% increase compared to eight gang homicides in the first half of 2005. Attempted homicides remained stable with four in the first half of both 2005 and 2006. Assaults attributed to gang members increased 4.7% with 111 in the first half of 2006 compared to 106 during the same period in 2005. Robberies attributed to gang members increased 24.2%. Auto thefts attributed to gang members decreased 27.8%. Shootings attributed to gang members increased 8.0% and gang related stabbings decreased 9.5%. Drive by shootings decreased 45.0%, from 20 in the first six months of 2005 to eleven in 2006. Arrests of gang members decreased 18.1% from 962 in 2005 to 788 in 2006.

San Diego Crimes Committed by Gang Members January to June			
Crime Type			05 to 06
	2005	2006	% Change
All Crimes:			
Homicide	8	9	12.5%
Attempt Homicide	4	4	0.0%
Assault	106	111	4.7%
Robbery	33	41	24.2%
Auto Theft	36	26	-27.8%
Other	206	163	-20.9%
Total	393	354	-9.9%
Assaults & Attempt Homicides:			
Shooting	50	54	8.0%
Stabbing	21	19	-9.5%
Other	39	42	7.7%
Total	110	115	4.5%
Drive-By Shootings	20	11	-45.0%
Arrests of Gang Members	962	788	-18.1%
Data supplied by Gang Unit 07/19/2006			

Hate Crimes

The total number of hate crimes decreased 4.2% to 23 in January to June 2006 from 24 in the same period of 2005. Hate crimes based on ethnicity accounted for fourteen cases (60% of the total), followed by sexual orientation with five cases (21.7% of the total) and religion with four cases (17.4% of the total).

San Diego Reported Hate Crimes January to June				
				05 to 06
		2005	2006	% Change
Hate Crimes		24	23	-4.2%
		2005		2006
		Count	% of Total	Count % of Total
Hate Crimes				
Ethnicity	12	50.0%	14	60.0%
Sexual Orientation	9	37.5%	5	21.7%
Religion	3	12.5%	4	17.4%
Gender	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Disability	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Data supplied by Crime Analysis 07/20/2006 (Revised 2005 Total Hate Crimes 7/27/06)				

Juvenile Crimes

The number of juvenile victims of violent crimes decreased 5.5% during the first six months of 2006, compared to 2005. Juveniles became victims of homicide seven times during the first six months of 2006 compared to twice during the same period in 2005. Arrests of juveniles decreased 21.0%, with misdemeanor arrests accounting for the largest portion of arrests during the day and after school hours.

San Diego Juvenile Statistics January to June			
Juvenile Victims of Violent Crimes:			
	2005	2006	05 to 06 % Change
Daytime Hours (0830 to 1329)			
Murder	0	0	0.0%
Rape	8	5	-37.5%
Robbery	14	11	-21.4%
Aggravated Assault	50	47	-6.0%
Daytime Total	72	63	-12.5%
After School Hours (1330 to 2159)			
Murder	1	4	300.0%
Rape	16	15	-6.3%
Robbery	85	104	22.4%
Aggravated Assault	156	130	-16.7%
After School Total	258	253	-1.9%
Curfew Hours (2200 to 0829)			
Murder	1	3	200.0%
Rape	17	7	-58.8%
Robbery	12	22	83.3%
Aggravated Assault	61	50	-18.0%
Curfew Total	91	82	-9.9%
ALL HOURS TOTAL	421	398	-5.5%
The enhanced curfew enforcement began on June 3, 1994. Daytime Loitering enforcement began in June 1996			

**San Diego
Juvenile Statistics
January to June**

Juvenile Arrests:

			05 to 06
	2005	2006	% Change
Daytime Hours (0830 to 1329)			
Felony	481	427	-11.2%
Misdemeanor	2,109	1,671	-20.8%
Other	52	33	-36.5%
Daytime Total	2,642	2,131	-19.3%
After School Hours (1330 to 2159)			
Felony	636	596	-6.3%
Misdemeanor	1,080	853	-21.0%
Other	65	47	-27.7%
After School Total	1,781	1,496	-16.0%
Curfew Hours (2200 to 0829)			
Felony	337	279	-17.2%
Misdemeanor	439	297	-32.3%
Other	571	356	-37.7%
Curfew Total	1,347	932	-30.8%
ALL HOURS TOTAL	5,770	4,559	-21.0%

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Daytime Loitering enforcement began in June 1996

Traffic Incidents

The number of collisions increased 0.4% in January through June 2006 with 5,575 in 2006 compared to 5,598 in 2005. There were 33 fatal collisions in the first half of 2006, resulting in 35 deaths. The number of DUI arrests increased 7.6% and DUI collisions increased 14.9% in the first six months of 2006 compared to 2005. Total Citations issued decreased 12.0% in the first half of 2006 compared to the same period in 2005.

San Diego Traffic Incidents January to June			
	2005	2006	05 to 06 % Change
Collisions			
Fatal	22	33	50.0%
Injury	2,351	2,306	-1.9%
Property Damage Only	3,225	3,236	-0.3%
Total	5,598	5,575	-0.4%
Citations	54,251	47,739	-12.0%
DUI			
Arrests	1,665	1,792	7.6%
Collisions	348	409	14.9%
Data supplied by Crime Analysis & Traffic Division 4/21/2006			

Command Initiatives

Traffic Division coordinates the “Avoid the 14” grant, which funds a cooperative, countywide effort by fourteen local law enforcement agencies to combat drunken driving and other alcohol related violations. More than fifteen alcohol enforcement details involving Vice and Traffic Division were conducted during March through June 2006. Operations included four DUI checkpoint details, seven Minor in Possession sweeps, three college area enforcement details and a DUI warrant sweep. Traffic Division personnel are currently working with local DMV investigators and Probation officers to identify repeat drunken driving offenders.

The Central Division Neighborhood Resource Team commenced operations on January 18, 2006 with the purpose of working closely with the community on quality of life and crime related issues. Locations with narcotics activity, gang activity, loitering, graffiti, transients, abandoned properties, and chronic drunkenness are targeted by the team. The team has made over 1,700 misdemeanor and felony arrests, obtained 40 stay away orders, and coordinated 30 ongoing projects. A representative project that has been completed is 1600 Logan Avenue. The property was the location of an abandoned warehouse and adjacent house that consumed a high level of police services. In order to change the environment, officers contacted the property owner, informed the owner of the situation and obtained a letter of authorization to enforce all laws on the property. The enforcement effort eventually led to demolition of the buildings, cleanup, and secured fencing around the property and 24 hour on site security. Police services have not been required at the property since.

Southeastern Division continues to target violence and gang activity as a high priority community concern. The Bay Vista Apartment Complex continues to be a target project, and the complex management has installed eleven functioning security cameras. The management has supplied the police department with real-time viewing software for the cameras, and has been very cooperative in supplying archived recordings when crime cases occur in the complex. Management has continued to progress on other improvements to the property, including installation of parking lot gates, installation of exterior lighting, new fencing for the grounds, etc. While additional improvements are still needed, violence at the complex appears to have begun to decrease.

Investigative Initiatives

The Sex Crimes Unit has initiated a Cold Case Team that is responsible to investigate cases that have Combined DNA Index System California State database (CODIS) hits. The team reexamines unsolved high profile or series related cases and has had a high level of success recently with the identification of four very violent predators. In all cases, the suspect brutally sexually assaulted the victims. The team expects to see a much more dramatic increase in suspect identification and prosecution as the offender DNA database continues to grow.

The Narcotics Task Force partnered with the DEA and the Mexican government on “Operation Gear Grinder”. The operation targeted several Mexican manufacturers and distributors estimated to be responsible for more than 75% of the anabolic steroids seized in the United States. The enforcement action is estimated to have reduced 80% of the illicit supply of anabolic steroids to the United States. Eight Mexico-based manufacturers of anabolic steroids and 23 associated persons have been indicted on federal drug trafficking and money laundering charges. The operation was featured in Sports Illustrated (April 19, 2006).

The Narcotics Unit has been investigating several businesses that opened in San Diego as medical marijuana dispensaries. California Proposition 215 and Senate Bill 420 establish the limitations under which a medical doctor may prescribe/recommend use of medical marijuana, and under which a patient or designated caregiver may possess marijuana. The marijuana dispensaries are in violation of both federal and state law. Investigation of these businesses led to the simultaneous service of 21 search warrants throughout San Diego and fourteen arrests. Narcotics detectives seized several marijuana grows, bulk marijuana, marijuana candy bars and cookies, and other marijuana enhanced products. Additionally, cocaine, hashish, ecstasy, mushrooms and thousands of dollars in U.S. currency were seized. Several weapons were also recovered during the operation, including a stolen Smith & Wesson handgun and an M-16 assault rifle.

The Homicide Unit investigates murders, negligent homicides, officer involved shootings and suspicious deaths. During the first half of 2006, the Homicide Unit closed eight murders that had occurred in previous years. The unit recently reopened a 1991 case where a 63 year old man had been robbed, beaten and strangled to death inside his home. Similarities had been noted between the case and another case with an identified suspect that had occurred five days earlier in the same neighborhood. DNA testing had been inconclusive at the time, and the case had been set aside due to lack of evidence. Recently, a homicide detective reprocessed evidence for fingerprints and with further DNA testing was able to place the known suspect at the scene of the second homicide. The suspect is facing trial for both murders.

The Gangs Unit has worked with the City Attorney’s Office to implement five gang injunctions within the City. A temporary injunction against the West Coast Crips targets 50 documented gang members and a hearing is scheduled to make the injunction permanent. The unit has also assisted Mid-City, Central and Southeastern Divisions in making gangs sweeps, resulting in over 100 gang related arrests. The Graffiti Strike Force investigates 100 to 130 graffiti cases per month, with 40 to 60 arrests each month, and has assisted the Homicide unit in identifying suspects in six homicide cases during the first half of 2006. The Violent Crimes Task Force

recently completed a project to cancel violent crimes that were ordered by the Mexican Mafia and carried out by street gangs. Thirty-one suspects were indicted in June, and all but two are in custody.

The Economic Crimes Unit is working proactively to educate citizens, businesses and other law enforcement personnel about identity theft, embezzlement, and other financial crimes. The unit has helped the San Diego Municipal Credit Union develop a public brochure on how to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft, and what steps to take if you do become a victim. The unit has utilized technology to provide reporting forms for businesses to report check fraud/forgery and embezzlement crimes online. This process change has freed patrol officers from taking reports from many of these establishments. The unit is currently designing online forms for reporting identity theft crimes. Development of these forms is in preparation for development and deployment of a real-time reporting database which can be quickly analyzed to triage cases and uncover crime series.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Lansdowne
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